

# COMING TOGETHER FOR WALNUT CREEK

HELP IMPROVE AND PROTECT OUR STREAM BY WORKING WITH THE WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT.

Jeremy Saugstad, Project Coordinator ♦ (641) 528-2065 ext. 3 ♦ [Jeremy.Saugstad@ia.nacdn.net](mailto:Jeremy.Saugstad@ia.nacdn.net) ♦ Poweshiek NRCS office

In 2002, Walnut Creek landed on the state's impaired waters list. But we can help improve and protect the 16-mile stream that weaves through Poweshiek County. By working together on the land, we can make a change in the creek.

## TAKING A WATERSHED APPROACH

The Walnut Creek Watershed Project works together with local landowners and residents – rural and urban – to make changes on the land that drains into Walnut Creek (the watershed). Those changes slow erosion and filter water to prevent pollutants from washing into our water.

## KNOWING THE PROBLEMS

Walnut Creek has been on the state's impaired waters list since 2002 because it has difficulty supporting aquatic life, like fish and insects, like it should. An assessment of the watershed showed that about 23,000 tons of sediment (soil) and about 30,000 pounds of phosphorus wash in to the creek every year due to erosion. The excess soil and nutrients can make it difficult for aquatic life to thrive.

## SOLUTIONS FOR A CLEANER STREAM

Cleaner water in Walnut Creek starts by keeping excess soil, nutrients and bacteria from reaching the stream in the first place. The Walnut Creek Watershed Project aims to:

- Reduce soil reaching the stream by 3,205 tons per year
- Reduce phosphorus reaching the stream by 4,167 pounds per year

To meet these goals, Jeremy Saugstad, project coordinator, works with landowners to find what conservation practices work best for their land and the stream. Conservation practices, which are ways to manage the land for better water quality, can be structures, like ponds and wetlands, or fences that keep livestock from eroding stream banks. They can be plantings, like buffers and grassed waterways, that help slow water and prevent erosion. Conservation practices can also be ways of improved land management, such as using conservation tillage, which disturbs the soil less and leaves residue on the surface.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways, large and small, that you can help

your stream. You can volunteer with the project's water monitoring program or add new conservation practices to your property. Financial assistance may be available from the watershed project to help you begin using conservation practices. The project would like to work with landowners to install:

- 4,500 feet of terraces
- 11 grade stabilization structures (like ponds)
- 32 water and sediment basins
- 33 acres of grassed waterways
- 180 acres of managed grazing systems
- 18 acres of buffers and filter strips
- 425 feet of streambank stabilization

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

Get involved by stopping by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Malcom (405 Montezuma St.) to visit with Project Coordinator Jeremy Saugstad. You can also call (641) 528-2065 ext. 3 or e-mail [Jeremy.Saugstad@ia.nacdn.net](mailto:Jeremy.Saugstad@ia.nacdn.net). You can also contact the coordinator to sign up for workshops, field days and other activities to learn about helping the creek.

The Walnut Creek Watershed Project is a partnership between the Poweshiek Soil and Water Conservation District, local landowners and residents, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division of Soil Conservation, and USDA NRCS.



The publication of this document has been funded by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act). Federal and State laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability (mental and/or physical), gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 1-800-457-4416, or write to Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.